

has been found on almost every species of native deciduous tree and shrub. *Sanguisorba officinalis* is a perennial herb and does not appear to have been previously recorded as a foodplant of *Biston betularia*.

I am grateful to C. W. Plant at the Passmore Edwards Museum for checking the identification of the caterpillar and for drawing attention to the possible significance of this record — L. R. WILLIAMS, Brent Leisure Services, Brent House, Wembley High Road, Middlesex HA9 6SX.

A FURTHER NOTE ON THE BRITISH SPECIES OF DACNE (COL.: EROTYLIDAE) — Mr. D. A. Prance's note on the relative incidence of our two species of this genus in Wales (*antea*: 99 185) gives me occasion to remark that, in my experience, the difference he draws attention to is equally pronounced in south-east England and probably therefore over their entire British range; and further, that over a long period there would seem to have been a definite reversal. To get the complete picture one has to go back to last century, in which Fowler (1889, *Col. Brit. Isl.* 3: 183) notes *D. rufifrons* as locally common, and *D. humeralis* (i.e. *bipustulata*) as rare, giving for each a similar distribution. Thus on first finding a *Dacne* (*D. bipustulata* freely at Chilham, E. Kent, 1931), having then only Fowler's work to consult, I concluded I had got a rarity. All later experience, however, pointed to this last as much the commoner of the two species. I do not remember ever finding more than a few *rufifrons* at a time, whereas *bipustulata* is often abundant and seldom occurs singly. I have long looked upon *rufifrons* as uncommon, or even scarce. Of course, if Fowler inadvertently transposed his data for the two species, the apparent reversal of their frequency over time would be illusory. — A. A. ALLEN, 49 Montcalm Road, London, SE7.

UNUSUAL FLIGHT TIMES FOR ALSOPHILA AESCULARIA D. & S. (THE MARCH MOTH (LEP.: GEOMETRIDAE)) — A single male of this species was caught in the Rothamsted Insect Survey Light trap at Warehorne, in Kent (Site No. 478. O. S. Grid ref. TQ 988 346) on the night of 13/14.ix.1987. The species usually flies in March and April, varying slightly according to the season.

On searching our extensive database we found only three other occasions when *aescularia* had been recorded well outside its normal flight period: A single male was caught at Tarleton, Lancashire (Site No. 371, O.S. Grid ref. SD446 224) on 20/21.vii.1980 and two males were caught at Fort Augustus, Invernesshire (Site No. 49, O.S. Grid ref. NH 366 092) on 2.xi.1975. ADRIAN M. RILEY, Entomology Department, Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2JQ.